

Poland

15th INFANTRY REGIMENT AT SKWIERZYNIA (3m. Polish.)

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Inf Reg, Army Unit No 1594, stationed in Skwierzyna, has a complement of 1100. The commander of the 15th Reg is Maj Zmijewski. The Reg was part of 5th Slask Inf Div with HQ at Miedrzycz. Its commander is Lt Col Deros (fmu). Div is part of Corps (No unknown) of the Wroclaw 4th District Commander of the Corps and District is Brig Gen Straszewski (fmu). Corps military adviser is Air Force Gen Buszow (Russian). HQ has 4 other high Russian officers. The 4th and 5th Inf Div plus a newly created division on which informant has no info are part of Corps. The 5th Div included: 12th Inf Reg from Gorzow, 15th Inf Reg from Skwierzyn, and the 17th Inf Reg from Miedrzycz plus a battalion of divisional engineers and a signal batt. The 15th Inf Reg included a training batt. and 3 inf battalions, a signal company, engineer company, supply company, and chemical company. The whole regiment is quartered in barracks by the Gen Swierczewski Park.

Armament of regiment: rifle model 44, artillery model 43, submachine guns model 41, hand machine gun, heavy machine gun, 6-8 pieces of 1.45 mm anti-tank guns, about 10 field pieces-57mm, 3-4 field pieces-87mm, 17 mortar pieces--87mm, and about 12 mortar pieces--120mm. Reg had 26 snipers with combat rifles Model 1891 (30) with telescopic sights. Staff included: Commander-Maj Zmijewski dep. comm.-for political affairs--Capt Kanak, Chief of staff--Capt Wojtowicz, operational officer-Capt Wozniak, political officers--First Lts Platek and Kowalewski, Secret office in charge of Staff Sgt Wrobel.

Breakdown of training schedule from reveille to taps given. Nominally free Sundays were usually used by the political officer for political discussions. Soldier could not go to church before taking oath since many took this occasion to desert. Permitted, after oath, but only in closed ranks. The reg does not have own chaplain or chapel and must go to town. Church was not attended in the field.

The day room in the barracks area contained banners and posters with Communist slogans, and wall notices. The books were on a military, partisan theme and about television and inventors.

Organized entertainment was rare. Every Saturday a Soviet film was shown, sometimes Polish on. Political lectures in the company were given by the political officer or company commander, 3 times weekly. The first was a lecture, the second a more intensive lesson, and the third a seminar. All must attend. A special attendance and answer book was kept. Repeated wrong answers result in an interview with information and political officers who urge application or threaten company punishment. The informant knows of no case of company punishment.

Pay. Private--6 zl per month, private first class--9 zl, sgt--18 zl, staff sgt-and first sgt--usually professional non-commissioned officers and receive a regular salary (unknown).

Rations. Breakfast-- $\frac{1}{2}$  liter soup, 2 kilograms bread for 6 persons, 2 spoons sugar and coffee. Dinner-- $\frac{1}{2}$  liter soup, 3 kitchen spoons potatoes with gravy, about 10 decagrams of meat, 2 kilograms bread for 8 persons and coffee. Supper-- $\frac{1}{2}$  liter soup, 2 kg bread for 8 persons, and coffee.

Equipment. Garrison cap and field cap for winter. Cloth and denim blouse and pants, 2 pr rag foot coverings, 1 pr shoes, summer and long drawers, shirt, gym outfit, 2 towels, blanket, overcoat 2 sheets, canteen, mess tin, cup, spoon, one piece soap per month, knapsack, 5 leather belts, pants belt, uniform belt, 4 handkerchiefs, 4 collars, chemical equipment(gas mask, litter, overcoat, gas-proof stockings, shovel), helmet, rifle, and cartridge belt. All equipment and arms are Soviet.

Furloughs granted only for death or serious illness in family, or for good shooting sometimes. Medical care given only in emergencies. Buszow and other Soviet officers take active interest in all phases of soldier's life. Since 12-month extension of service many soldiers deserted. Many non-commissioned officers deserted with their arms and ammunition to partisan groups in forests. Punishment for desertion is 10 years.

A battalion of infantry and artillery and an officer engineer school are stationed in Gdansk on Aleja Rokossowskiego in former German barracks. They wear letter "A" on their arms.

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